June 7, 2018

Dear Parents & Members of Our Ansonia School Community,

Early this morning, I met with the Ansonia High School senior class. I spoke about Tuesday night’s special Board of Education meeting and the informational forum that followed at AHS. I told them that I was not able to speak during the forum because of the pending lawsuit and hearing on June 12 regarding the budget. Most importantly, I told them that they would be taking their exams as scheduled and, on June 18, they would be participating in graduation as scheduled. The students listened quietly and they applauded at the conclusion of the meeting.

Yesterday, our eighth grade students visited Ansonia High School and met with Paul Giansanti, the new principal of AHS. In the evening in front of their parents, board members and administration, the top 10 graduates of Ansonia High were honored at a banquet.

While we prepare for Tuesday’s court date, our students are finishing up their school year with well-deserved field days, celebrations, and yes, final exams. We will keep our focus on our students as we work to answer questions that have been posed by many. For example: What has the school district done since the city’s Board of Aldermen voted to reduce the Board of Education budget by $600,000 in January?

Numerous times and in numerous ways, we asked the city to restore the funding, but our request was not granted. We contacted the State Department of Education asking for assistance. The state wrote several communications, noting that the reduction of funding was illegal. Earlier this week, as a response to a question from the city if our Alliance Grant can be used to offset the $600,000 budget cut, the state clearly responded that it cannot be used for that purpose. After many attempts to settle this issue, we had no choice but to file a lawsuit against the city. Without the funding, we do not have sufficient funds to cover all expenses to the end of the year on June 30. We will continue to keep you updated.

Regards,

Dr. Carol Merlone
Superintendent Ansonia Public Schools